

# Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Bitterbrush seedling project

**Proposal Number:** 1564

**DWR Region:** Northern Region

**Lead Agency:** DWR

**County:** Cache, Morgan

**Project Manager:** Ron Greer

**PM Phone:** 0

**Regional Priority:** High

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:** 1/7/2009

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**Project Location:** Northern Region WMAs

**Project Description:** Grow bitterbrush and sage seedlings in a greenhouse for planting.

**Description of Problem/Need:** Winter browse loss is an issue that is plaguing the mule deer of Utah and the west. As housing and agriculture invades the traditional winter areas for Mule deer, the important browse species such as sage and bitterbrush is lost and mule deer are left to look elsewhere to fill their nutritional needs. On the WMAs in the northern region, we have the potential to meet much of this need. The plants needed are sage brush and bitterbrush. These plants will help provide the nutritional needs for mule deer to help them survive the tough winters that face them.

**Objectives:** Rudys greenhouse in Logan, Utah has volunteered, with much use of time and resources, to grow these species to help benefit the mule deer in this region, but primarily on the Cache unit. In cooperation with Great Basin Research Center in Ephraim, they will grow up to 10,000 sage and bitterbrush plants per year. This is an ongoing project that benefits greatly the mule deer, but also the sportsman/DWR relationship.

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** Will address section 7 and section 5 of the WAP. It also addresses the plan of the Cache Mule Deer working group. The needs and management plans of WMAs in the northern region will also be addressed.

**Potential Risks:** none

**Proposed Methods:** Using seed collected from wild plants by DWR personnel, the Great Basin Research Center will prepare the bitterbrush seeds by stratifying and scarifying them. These seeds are then transported to Rudys greenhouse in Logan where they are planted into flats and grown in greenhouses. When they reach the appropriate size they will be moved into larger pots where the roots can develop more fully and increase the odds of surviving the planting. Sage seeds are planted into the flats also, though they need no preparation as do the bitterbrush seeds. After the plants are grown to the right size, they will be planted on our WMAs. This will be accomplished using a number of one man augers to drill 5 inch holes and then the individual plants are placed into these holes. This labor is done by dedicated hunter volunteers and members of the Mule Deer Foundation.

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**Shapefile Name:** N/A

**Seed Source:**

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:**

**Proposed NEPA Action:**

**Proposed Arch Action:**

☐ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Information:**

**Grazing Management:**

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## SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer

Elk

Moose

Greater Sage-grouse

Sharp-tailed Grouse

# Project Proposal

## LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
DWR	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

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## PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Unfunded Balance	\$5,000.00		\$0.00
Other	\$5,000.00		\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Materials and Supplies	soil and pots for seedlings	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Personal Services	labor and equipment usage	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>